

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for eliminating an unnecessary dispatch of a service technician, comprising:

~~generating a service order indicating that a dispatch of a service technician is required;~~

receiving a service order;

determining whether the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician;

if the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician, then generating a dispatch order for the dispatch and placing the dispatch order in a queue for execution;

~~determining whether the dispatch is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period;~~

~~if the dispatch is scheduled to occur within the predetermined time period, then placing the dispatch on hold;~~

if the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician, then determining whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria that indicates the service order is likely to cause an unnecessary dispatch;

if the service order meets the set of predefined criteria, then determining whether the dispatch is unnecessary; [[and]]

if the dispatch is unnecessary, then determining whether the dispatch associated with the dispatch order in the queue is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period; and

if the dispatch is scheduled to occur within the predetermined time period, then placing the dispatch order in the queue on hold and canceling the dispatch associated with the service order.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria comprises:

determining whether the service order was initiated by a competitive local exchange carrier.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria comprises:

determining whether the service order includes an override code requiring dispatch of a service technician regardless of a dispatch determination by a work management center.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria comprises:

determining whether the service order is related to a second pending service order.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria comprises:

determining whether the service order includes an assignment of facilities.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein determining whether the service order indicates that a dispatch is unnecessary comprises:

determining whether the assignment of facilities uses the same facilities that were previously assigned to a location associated with the service order.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein canceling the dispatch comprises: correcting the service order so the dispatch associated with the service order is canceled.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether the dispatch is unnecessary comprises:

in response to receiving a query based upon selected ones of the predefined criteria, searching a database of pending service orders that indicate a dispatch is required to locate service orders that meet the selected predefined criteria; and providing the service orders that meet the selected predefined criteria.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether the dispatch is unnecessary comprises:

periodically generating a report based upon selected ones of the predefined criteria that includes all service orders that meet the selected predefined criteria.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for eliminating unnecessary dispatches, comprising:

a service order control system for receiving service requests from a source and for generating a service order;

a work management center for receiving the service order from the service order control system, [[and]] for determining whether the service order requires a dispatch, and if so, for generating a dispatch order corresponding to the service order for the dispatch; and

a trap service order system for receiving a duplicate of the service order from the service control system monitoring the service order generated by the service order control system and for determining whether the dispatch is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period, and if so, then communicating with the work management center to place the dispatch on hold, determining whether the service order requires a dispatch, and if so, determining whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria that indicates the service order is likely to cause an unnecessary dispatch, and if so, then further examining the service order to determine whether the dispatch is unnecessary, and if the dispatch is unnecessary, then determining whether the dispatch is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period, and if so, then communicating with the work management center to place the dispatch order on hold.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The system of Claim 11, further comprising a loop facility assignment control system for receiving the service order and for assigning facilities for the service order, wherein if the trap service order system determines that the dispatch is unnecessary, then the trap service order system communicates with the loop facility assignment control system to update a database in the loop facility assignment control system.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein if the trap service order system determines that the dispatch is unnecessary, then the trap service order system communicates with the service order control system to update a database in the service order control system.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 14, wherein the service order control system generates a corrected service order which cancels the dispatch, in response to the database update.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein the trap service order system is operative to identify all service orders that require a dispatch and that meet a set of predefined criteria.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for eliminating an unnecessary dispatch of a service technician, comprising:

~~generating a service order indicating that a dispatch of a service technician is required;~~

receiving a service order including facilities assignments for the service order;

determining whether the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician;

~~determining whether the dispatch is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period;~~

~~if the dispatch is scheduled to occur within the predetermined time period, then placing the dispatch on hold;~~

if the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician, then
determining whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria that indicates a likelihood of an unnecessary dispatch by examining selected sections of the service order;

if the service order meets the set of predefined criteria, then determining whether the dispatch is unnecessary; and

if the dispatch is unnecessary, then eliminating the dispatch by correcting the service order ~~and canceling a dispatch order for the dispatch.~~

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the set of predefined criteria is selected based upon an analysis of past dispatches.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the set of predefined criteria includes determining whether the service order is a new install or reinstall/reconnect.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein correcting the service order comprises updating a database associated with a service order control system.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the service order is for a new install.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the service order is for a reinstall/reconnect.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein canceling the dispatch comprises:

generating a corrected service order;

determining whether the corrected service order corresponds to the dispatch order; and

if the corrected service order corresponds to the dispatch order, then canceling the dispatch order.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the service order is for a new install.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the service order is for a reinstall/reconnect.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim [[26]] 11, wherein the service order control system generates a corrected service order and wherein the work management center determines whether the corrected service order corresponds to the dispatch order and if the corrected service order corresponds to the dispatch order, then the work management center cancels the dispatch order.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the service order is for a new install.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the service order is for a reinstall/reconnect.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for eliminating an unnecessary dispatch of a service technician, comprising:

~~generating a service order indicating that a dispatch of a service technician is required;~~

receiving a service order at a work management center;

determining, at the work management center, whether the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician;

if the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician, then generating a dispatch order corresponding to the service order for the dispatch and placing the dispatch order in a queue for execution;

determining whether the dispatch is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period;

if the dispatch is scheduled to occur within the predetermined time period, then placing the dispatch on hold;

receiving a duplicate of the service order at a trap service order system;

determining, at the trap service order system, whether the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician;

if the service order requires a dispatch of a service technician, then determining, at the trap service order system, whether the service order meets a set of predefined criteria that indicates a likelihood of an unnecessary dispatch by examining selected sections of the service order;

if the service order meets the set of predefined criteria, then determining, at the trap service order system, whether the dispatch is unnecessary; [[and]]

if the dispatch is unnecessary, then determining, at the trap service order system, whether the dispatch associated with the service order in the queue is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period; and

if the dispatch is scheduled to occur within the predetermined time period, then placing the dispatch order in the queue on hold and eliminating the dispatch by:

generating a corrected service order;

determining whether the corrected service order corresponds to a dispatch order generated in response to the service order; and

if the corrected service order corresponds to the dispatch order, then canceling the dispatch order.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for eliminating unnecessary dispatches, comprising:

a service order control system for receiving service requests from a source, generating a service order, and generating a corrected service order in response to a communication from a trap service order system;

a work management center for receiving the service order from the service order control system, determining whether the service order requires a dispatch, and if so, then generating a dispatch order, receiving the corrected service order from the service order control system, determining whether the corrected service order corresponds to the dispatch order, and if so, then canceling the dispatch order; and

the trap service order system for receiving a duplicate of the service order from the service control system monitoring the service order generated by the service order control system, determining whether the dispatch is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period, and if so, then placing the dispatch on hold, determining whether the service order requires a dispatch, and if so, then comparing a service order type and information in a selected field of the service order with a set of predefined criteria that indicates the service order is likely to cause an unnecessary dispatch, and if so, then further examining the service order to determine whether the dispatch is unnecessary, and if so, then the dispatch is unnecessary, then determining whether the dispatch is scheduled to occur within a predetermined time period, and if so, then communicating with the work management center to place the dispatch order on hold and communicating with the service order control system.